

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/009,884

Examiner

William P. Fletcher III

Applicant(s)

ONISHI ET AL.

Art Unit

1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed August 4, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 8-10 and 67-71.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 4, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 1 and 4-71 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

3. Claims 46-66 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on June 17, 2004.

4. Claims 4-7 and 11-66 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on June 17, 2004.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Clifford J. Mass (Reg. No. 30,086) on August 14, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, the title has been amended to read:

**METHOD FOR TREATING SURFACE ~~TREATMENT, SURFACE-TREATED ARTICLE AND~~
~~DEVICE FOR SURFACE TREATMENT~~ OF INK JET RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING
RECORDED IMAGE**

In the specification, the paragraph bridging pages 14-15 of the specification has been amended to read:

For example, thiocyanates such as sodium thiocyanate, potassium thiocyanate, ammonium thiocyanate and the like; thiosulfuric acid; thiourea type compounds such as thiourea, thiosemicarbazide derivatives, thiocarbohydrazide derivatives and the like; thiol compounds containing hetero-rings such as imidazole rings, pyrimidine rings, pyridine rings, purine rings and the like; sulfur halides such as S_2X_2 (X indicates F, Cl or Br), SX_2 (X indicates F or Cl), SX_4 (X indicates F or Cl), SX_6 (X indicates F) and the like; sulfur oxyhalides such as SOX_2 (X indicates F, Cl or Br), SO_2X_2 (X indicates F or Cl) and the like; ~~and~~ halogensulfones such as $SO_2(OH)X$ (X indicates F or Cl) and the like; and halogenosulfonic acid.

In the claims, the non-elected claims have been cancelled:

Claims 4-7 (cancelled).

Claims 11-66 (cancelled).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 8-10, and 67-71 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art neither teaches nor suggests the claimed process in which an ink jet image, previously recorded on an ink jet recording medium is treated with a thio ether, sulfur halide, sulfur oxyhalide, halogenosulfonic acid, or derivative thereof.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. The examiner's amendment to the specification merely provides antecedent basis in the specification to halogenosulfonic acid, which is supported, for example, by original claim 3. See CLMPTO(11/13/2001).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Fletcher III whose telephone number is (571)

Art Unit: 1762

272-1419. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 0900h-1700h.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy H. Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



William Phillip Fletcher III
Patent Examiner (FSA), USPTO
Art Unit 1762

Fredericksburg, VA
August 14, 2006